

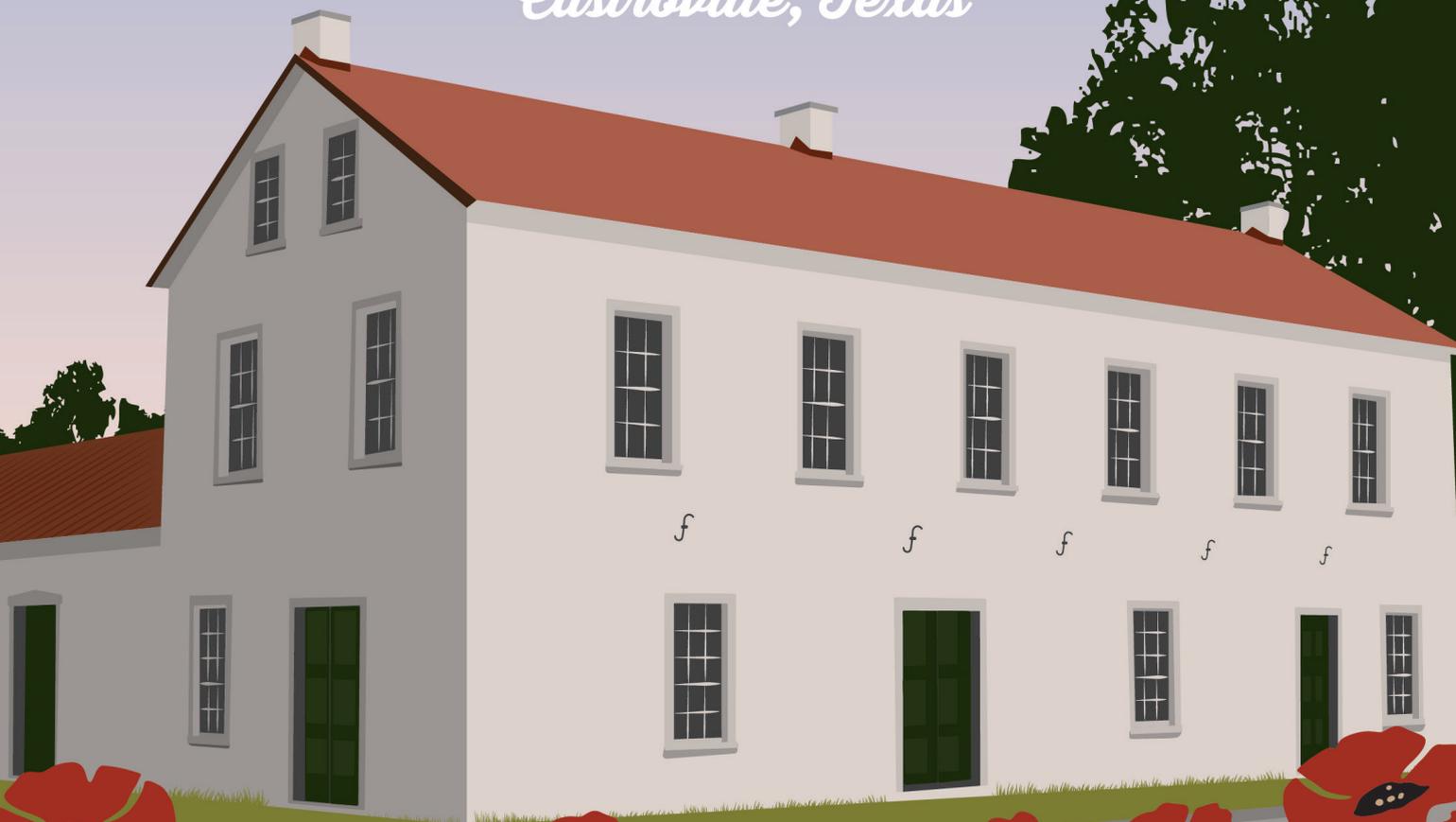
Texas Historical Commission

Pre-Visit Guide
Grade 7

LANDMARK INN

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Castroville, Texas



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION



visitlandmarkinn.com



Pre-Visit Guide

Overview: The Start of the Landmark Inn Story

Built on the banks of the Medina River on the Chihuahua-San Antonio Road, the businesses that operated at Landmark Inn State Historic Site sheltered travelers, outfitted adventurers, and milled grain for local area farmers for over a century. In preparation for a visit to the site, students learn about the arduous journey of Henri Castro and the European immigrants who founded Castroville in 1844 through investigating primary sources and analyzing geographical features.

Social Studies TEKS

(9) Geography. The student understands the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment in Texas. The student is expected to:

(A) identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and explain the positive and negative consequences of the modifications.

(20) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including technology. The student is expected to:

(A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas;

(B) analyze information by applying absolute and relative chronology through sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;

(C) organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.

Materials

- ★ Historical images for display/distribution
- ★ Primary Source Analysis resource
- ★ Building a Landmark activity resources
- ★ KWL activity resource

Vocabulary

empresario: a person who contracted with the government to recruit and settle areas of early Texas (as controlled by Spain, then Mexico, and finally the Republic of Texas) in exchange for land.



Activity: What Do You See?

15 minutes

Context: Henri Castro, a French banker and businessman, founded Castroville in 1844. Castro was an empresario contracted with the Republic of Texas who recruited over 2,000 settlers from the Alsace region of France and from Germany. Many of the historic buildings and homes still standing in Castroville today reflect the Alsatian and European culture of the area's first settlers, now blended with traditional south Texas regional architecture. The paintings for this activity are by Rowena Vance. The painting with the horses was done in the 1850s and depicts her home in Castroville, Texas. Her children and family pet are standing together at the door of the family general store. Today, these buildings are part of Landmark Inn State Historic Site. The second painting was done in the 1860s and shows the Vance Store.

Display the **paintings** and distribute the **Primary Source Analysis resource**. Preview the paintings and the analysis tool. Give students time to examine the paintings and record their observations. Share responses when completed.

Activity: Settling Castroville

15 minutes

Ask students to imagine that, like Henri Castro in the 1860s, they are responsible for finding a good location to establish a new town. Brainstorm with students about the kinds of geographic features and attributes a location would need in order to sustain a community. (water, wood, roads, access to animals to hunt or foraged foods, good land for farming/ranching)

Display the **plan of Castroville map**. Explain that this is a map of the early Castroville settlement. Point out that the labels in the map are in French. Ask:

- ★ **What features do you see on this map?** [map title, compass, key, street grid, Medina River label, areas labeled abcd]
- ★ **What does the map tell you about how the city of Castroville was laid out?** [laid out on a grid, most of the settlement bounded by the Medina River]

Display the **San Antonio-Chihuahua/El Paso Trail map**. Ask:

- ★ **People who traveled this trail were likely traveling to and from what two locations?** [Mexico/west Texas (bottom left), San Antonio (top right brown circle Bexar)]
- ★ **The trail passed through Castroville. During the 1800s, how might this have affected the settlement?** [brought more people to the area, increased trade opportunities]

To extend the activity, watch the Landmark Inn Historic Site [YouTube video](#) about the Medina River habitat. (3:39 min).



Activity: Come to Castroville

25 minutes

Display the **1842 newspaper advertisement**. Ask students to give at least two observations about the source. [appears to be old, not written in English (in French and German), is probably about Castroville due to the headlines]

Display this translation of the final paragraph in each article:

Castroville is generally known as the most considerate and European-devoted settlement. Mr. Castro agrees to give each family 15 hectares of land free of charge, and all single persons 8 hectares, plus two hectares in the city, if only the conditions indicated in the prospectus are met.

Ask:

- **What can you learn from this paragraph?**
[free land was available to settle in Castroville]
- **What was the purpose of these articles published in 1842?**
[advertisement to persuade people to come settle Castroville]
- **Why are these articles not written in English?**
[Article was aimed at people living in the Alsace region of France who spoke mainly French or German.]
- **Besides having land available, how else is Castroville described that might be appealing to foreign citizens?**
[European-devoted which implies a friendliness to European settlers]
- **How is this 1842 newspaper advertisement like something you would see today? How is it different?**
[alike: has a specific purpose and audience, makes an emotional appeal, provides specific information, is written in languages other than English]
[different: is in a print medium only, advertises something that no longer exists (free land)]
- **If you lived in the crowded European region of Alsace in 1842 and you saw this ad, would it have persuaded you to move to Castroville? Why or why not?**
[answers will vary]



Primary Source Investigation: Early Castroville, the Real Frontier

40 minutes

Context: Auguste Fréteillère stayed in the Castroville settlement for only a year before writing his mother that he wanted to return to France. Many of the French and German immigrants who set out for Castroville died on the journey, turned back, or settled in other places along the way. Lipan Apache, Comanche, or Kickapoo tribes were likely the “Indians” mentioned in Auguste’s account. Remind students that even when Castroville was considered a new settlement, the land had been settled or occupied by Native Americans long before Henry Castro’s arrival.

Distribute or display the **primary source activity resources** including excerpts from *Adventures of a Castrovillian* by Auguste Fréteillère, a journal of his travels from France to Castroville in the summer of 1843 through the winter of 1844, Rowena Vance’s letter to her mother in 1854, Frank Howard’s account of visiting Castroville in 1872, and the 1850 map of Texas. Point out that the 1850s map shows that the settled area of Texas at that time was largely confined to the central and eastern parts of the state. Castroville, then an early suburb of San Antonio de Bexar, was located in a largely unsettled frontier area. Also distribute or display the **Early Castroville worksheet**. Preview each resource and the worksheet. Share responses when completed.

Answer Key

1. France
2. Answers may include: ruts and muddy roads, “objectionable animals,” mosquitos, boggy trail, etc.
3. Answers may include: lack of shelter, lack of leadership (Castro leaves shortly after arriving), potential attacks by Native Americans
4. “Indians, every thing, and every body”
5. Maybe not as the expressman had been a deserter who later slipped guard and disappeared.
6. Anger, embarrassment, frustration
7. Trains heading into “Indian territory.”
8. German, Spanish, English



Assessment

Evaluate student engagement and instructional activities for completeness and understanding.

Take-home Extension

Distribute **KWL chart**. Have students complete the K and W columns of the chart. The L column will be completed during the Post-Visit activity.

Additional Resources & Extensions

Landmark Inn SHS Mill and River Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4ZnBIj9yvPMeVWQNIxOO94hvcdPiM6fS>

The Portal to Texas History

<https://texashistory.unt.edu>

The Handbook of Texas Online

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook>

Library of Congress

<https://loc.gov>



Activity Images: Vance Hotel and Landmark Inn by Rowena Vance

Image courtesy of Landmark Inn State Historic Site



What Do You See?

Primary Source Analysis Resource

Look carefully at the painting of Landmark Inn by Rowena Vance. Write your observations to complete the activity.

Write at least five (5) things you see in the painting in each category.

PEOPLE	OBJECTS	ACTIVITIES	COLORS

Write a new title for this painting.

Why do you think Rowena Vance painted this scene?

Write at least two (2) questions that you would like to ask one of the people in the painting.

-
-

Write at least two (2) questions that you would like to ask the artist about her painting.

-
-

What else does this painting make you curious about?

Primary Source Activity Image: Come to Castroville!

1842 newspaper advertisement

TEXAS, CASTRO-VILLE.

Des calomnieurs et des faussaires continuant contre la colonisation du soussigné au Texas, un système de dénigrement inqualifiable, le public est invité à s'informer sur la prospérité de CASTRO-VILLE, près la belle rivière Médina, en s'adressant aux personnes suivantes dont la moralité et la bonne fois sont à l'abri de tout soupçon.

A Bremen : M. W. Robertson, consul des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

A la Haye : M. le colonel d'Engerfield, chargé d'affaires du Texas.

A Paris : A la Legation du Texas et chez M. Jussaud, notaire.

A Neufreystædt, pour le grand duché de Bade : MM. Huth et comp., banquiers.

A Anvers : MM. J. Decock et Bischeop, armateurs.

P. S. CASTRO-VILLE est notoirement connue comme l'établissement le plus considérable du Texas, et peuplé d'Européens.

M. Castro continue à donner gratis à chaque famille 15 hectares de terres, et à tout célibataires 8 hectares, plus deux ares dans la ville, pourvu qu'ils soient dans les conditions indiquées au prospectus qu'on peut se procurer chez M. Grandpré, représentant de la maison Th. de Coek et F. Bissehop, Castro hôtel des Deux-Clefs, à Colmar.

Texas, Castroville.

Da Verläunder und Verfälscher gegen die Colonisation des Unterzeichneten im Texas fortfahren dieselbe auf eine unbeschreibliche Weise zu verschwärzen, so wird das Publikum aufgefordert, sich über den Wohlstand von Castroville an dem schönen Flusse Medina bei nachbenannten Personen zu erkundigen, deren Moralität und Rechlichkeit außer allem Zweifel sind.

In Bremen bei dem Hn. W. Robertson, Consul der Vereinigten Staaten Americas;

Im Haag bei dem Hn. Obristen von Engerfield, Geschäftsträger im Texas;

Zu Paris bei der Legation des Texas und bei dem Hn. Jussaud, Notarius;

Zu Neufreistadt, für das Großherzogthum Baden, bei den Hn. Huth und Comp., Bankiers;

Zu Antwerpen bei den Hn. J. Decock und Bischeop, Aelieder.

N. S. Castroville ist allgemein als die beträchtlichste und mit Europäern bevölkertste Niederlassung bekannt.

Hr. Castro gibt fernerhin jeder Familie unentgeltlich 520 und jedem Ledigen 160 Acres, ferner ein Loos in der Stadt, wenn sie nur die in dem Prospectus angedeuteten Bedingungen erfüllen, welche man sich bei Hn. Grandpre, Repräsentanten des Hauses Th. de Coek und Bischeop, im Gasthause zu den Zwei Schlüsseln zu Colmar, verschaffen kann.



Primary Source Activity Resource: Auguste Fréteillère Journal

Photograph, [Auguste Fréteillère], undated, SC889.50.2.9, Gentilz-Fréteillère Family Papers, 1793-1962, Col 889, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio, Texas.

On the journey across Texas



“We had found ruts in the plain of Lavaca, but nothing could compare with the muddy roads filled with overturned stumps, and giving out a pestilential odor, that we now traversed. Here and there black serpents, alligators, toads, and other objectionable animals were to be seen. Add to all that mosquitoes by the million and you will believe without doubt, as do I, that the distance is magnificent, but the near at hand exactly the contrary. They were obliged to double and sometimes triple the teams. Notwithstanding, two days were required to drag our wagons and carts out of that wretched bog. Decidedly, all the forests of America were not like those so well described by J. Fennimore Cooper in *The Last of the Mohicans*. When all our carts were dragged from the mire we camped one day on a magnificent

prairie to repair the yokes and those parts of the wagons which were most damaged. The only loss that we experienced in this short journey of two miles was a steer belonging to one of the Germans in the caravan.” (Fréteillère 1915:88-89)

Building a new settlement in Castroville

“Mr. Castro had ordered the construction of a great shed so that everyone would have a shelter for the winter season. He had left us temporarily on business, and put the direction of the building in the hands of my friend Louis [Huth]. One evening the Americans, and our guide Charley [de Montel], who returned from hunting, warned us that two bands of Indians were prowling about. Thereupon, great uneasiness spread among the inhabitants. The agent assembled everyone to prepare the defense. Half of the colonists were German and the other half were French—the majority of whom were from Alsace...five colonists ventured four or five miles along the banks of the Medina to get material for shingles. Three were killed by the Indians.” (Fréteillère 1915: 95)



Primary Source Activity Resource: Rowena Vance Letter, 1854

Castroville, May 21st 1854

My dear Mother,

Since I wrote you last week I have had a great deal of trouble. I told you that poor Mr. Vance was afraid of Indians and in fact I believe he is more afraid of every thing and every body than any man I ever saw.

He has wanted me to take my family and go to San A. ever since the Indian troubles, but I have plead off till last friday when he was going to San A. he had bid me Good-bye and the buggy was waiting at the door, when a red-shirted expressman came up, saying there were 1500 Indians and there had been a battle and he was sent to warn people on the way; this of course added fuel to the fire and Mr. V. came in and insisted that we should all go in with him and in fifteen minutes the longest he had us all in, just as we were, for San A. I entreated him to listen, to wait till next time or take a minute for reflection, but there was time enough to talk and arrange on the road go we should. I begged him to leave Martha as the buggy was crowded, not one would he leave, so away we went after we got up the hill he thought it would have been better to have left Martha. I begged him to let her go back but no he would not. I half cried and half laughed told him I felt like a perfect fool, but talking at last had the effect and before we got half way there he began to make arrangements about our coming back the next day with him. So we went in, put up at the Planter's Hotel, spent the night, took supper and breakfast and left four dollars. I was tired sick and worried to death with the four children (Mr. V. included) but I went to see Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Newton, and Mrs. Kingbury and had a fine visit after all. Mrs Newton's Mother is



Primary Source Activity Resource: Rowena Vance Letter, 1854 (2)

one of the nicest looking old ladies I ever saw. I was very much pleased with her. She is better looking than her daughter and does not look much older. Her gray hair is combed smoothly and tastily over her forehead, she has a fine form and looks so well dressed and so much the real lady and is with all so sensible, that I had reason to admire her. In the afternoon we came back to Castroville and on the way met three or four families going in town, among them Mr. Alexander and Mr. Woodwards. Mr. A. said he heard we had gone and thought if Castroville was not safe he could not live out alone. I was distressed that Mr. V. had by his cowardise caused such a mistake to those out of his family. I told him I never would again do a thing wrong foolish and ridiculous because he told me to. By the way the express proved to be a deserter and was put under guard but he made off in the night.

Mr. Klapinbach and Mr. Noonan have told Mr. V. very plainly how silly he was and as usual he takes it very quietly and patiently. I tell him if he will give me \$50 pr. month which it will take to keep our family in San A., I will go on my own responsibility, he says he would rather give me \$50 to stay with him. I think it will be a good lesson for him. He always wants a hard experience of this kind before he will listen to any thing.

But his natural characteristic held out to the last in all his alarm (and the express ?) went in along with us, he never asked him a question where the 1500 Indians were where the battle had been or where he came from till I insisted he should find out where he was sent from and the man said Laredo. He has no curiosity. Not a particle. He did not know whether the Indians were in New Mexico or Greenland, all thoughts were on getting us in. I tell people I have served in the last Indian war and will soon have a pension, My vexation was worth about 20 dollars a month for a year or so. If any of my friends ask how I am, tell them the Indians have almost killed me but I am slowly recovering.



Primary Source Activity Resource: Frank Howard Letter, 1872

Excerpts from Memoirs by Frank Howard, 1872
(Howard was a cousin of the Vance family).

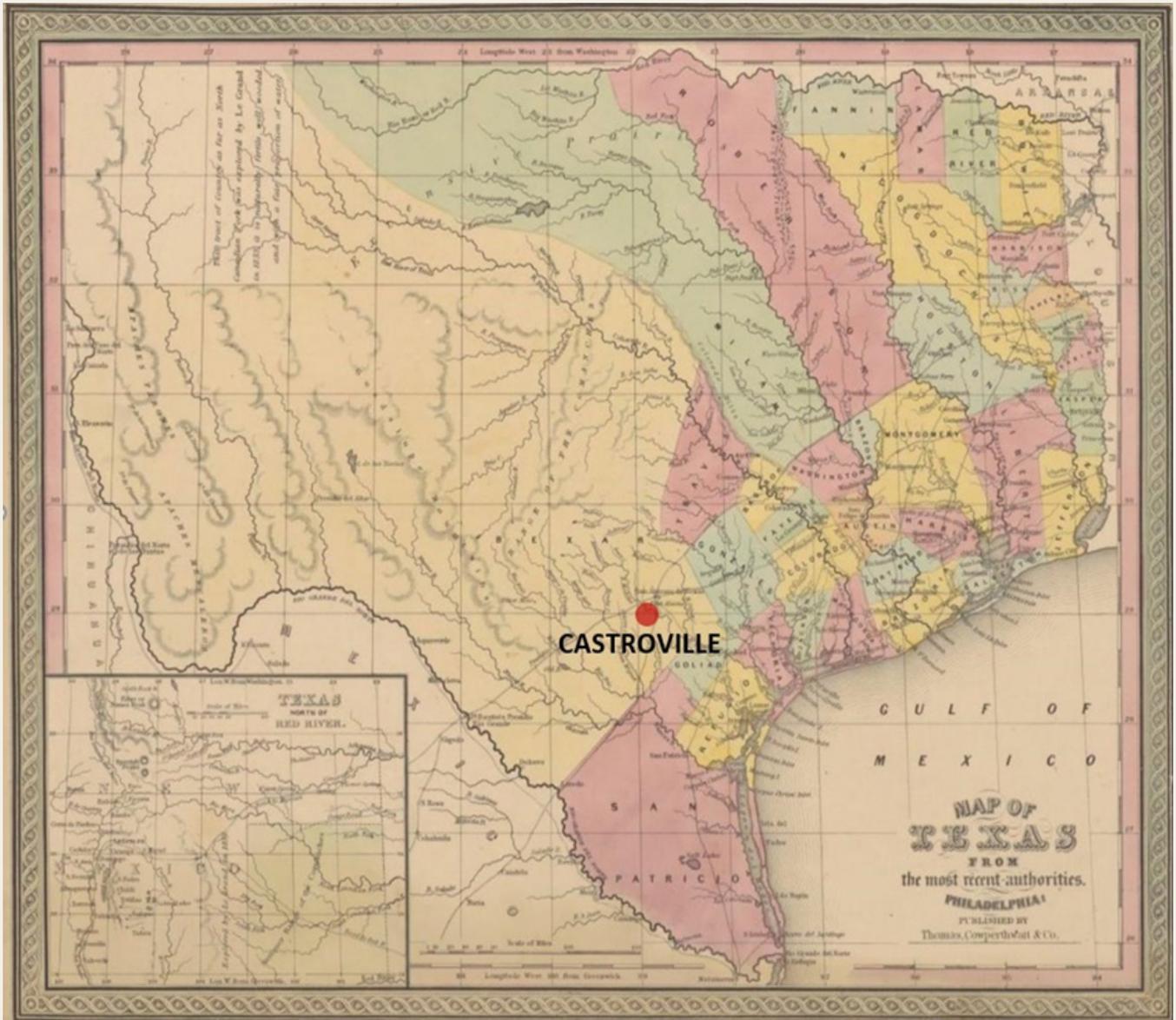
The last twenty-five miles of travel are soon finished and we travel-worn mortals are set down at the residence of our cousins, the Vances.

As Castroville is to be my residence for six months, a short description of the place and its surroundings may not be uninteresting. The place was founded by Henry Castro and is situated on the grand road to Eagle Pass, Chihuahua and Fort Clark. Situated on the western bank of the Medina River, and near the eastern limit of Indian raids, it is the favorite place for making up trains for the passage of the Indian country. The inhabitants, numbering about six hundred, are engaged mainly in trade with the people of the surrounding country and in cultivating the soil; many stock men also reside in the place...The place was settled principally by the Germans and the German element now predominates. The language spoken is principally German, although the greater part of the people speaks both Spanish and English.



Primary Source Activity Image: Map of Texas, circa 1850s

Map of Texas from the most recent authorities., map, ca. 1850, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting University of Texas at Arlington Library. texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph50225/m1/1/?q=apache (Accessed November 18, 2017).



Primary Source Investigation: Early Castroville

Auguste Fréteillère Journal

1. From which European country did Auguste emigrate?
2. Describe at least three (3) hazards that the colonists experienced while traveling across Texas.
3. Describe at least three (3) obstacles or challenges the travelers faced after arriving at the settlement site.

Rowena Vance Letter, 1854

4. What was Mr. Vance apparently afraid of?
5. In your opinion, was the red-shirted expressman a reliable source? Why or why not?
6. In this letter, what feelings does Mrs. Vance express toward Mr. Vance's behavior in traveling to San Antonio?

Frank Howard Letter, 1872

7. What does Howard mention that Castroville is well-known for at the time of his letter?
8. What languages did Howard say he heard spoken in Castroville?



The Start of the Landmark Inn Story KWL Chart

Know	Want to Know	Learned



Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 830-931-2133.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at [Landmark Inn State Historic Site](http://www.landmarkinnstate.com).

Contact Us

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